

tion; and be assured the under structure of this island—we confine ourselves now to the iron mines and coal for its working—has its equal or correspondent value, and eternal laws of beneficence and wisdom laid down in reference to it.

Schools of design require then to be formed, as much as quarterly meetings of ironmasters to be held—the one is incomplete without the other,—the theory of business, of trading intercourse has been too far pushed in one respect; the equipoise, in the respect we speak of, requires to be maintained; and schools of design inculcating right moral principles of guidance, with high and just aims and ends, will tend as much as an enactment on money-making to rectify the evils flowing from the past.

We cannot enter into detail in the compass of a chapter, but we are zealously burning to see a change for the comfort and advantage of our countrymen; and shall be more than happy to enter into any plan, or purpose, that may be set on foot and in a right spirit for this end.

In conclusion, let us entreat the masters to bear their adversity with dignity—they have nobly struggled through a period of great depression and trial so far—they have valorously stuck to the ship of their fortunes in great perils: let them not now begin to throw overboard the weaker or dependent; on the other hand, let us implore the men to consider the case of their masters, and make every allowance for the embarrassments of their position.

It is proposed to reduce the workmen's wages from 3s. 6d. per day to 3s.: this is one-seventh taken from their stinted rations; and, be it remembered, that although there are six days to the ordinary working week, it is now long since the week had six working days to the poor workers and their brethren in the collieries; we take the average, one-seventh then, from the hitherto stinted allowance may be the very turning point from a bare subsistence to absolute starvation. If diminution must ensue, let it be modified in amount, and in the hope, we would fain say the promise, of an immediate return to the old wages when an improvement sets in. Small sacrifices from many parties, and small contributions from many channels, will right the balance easily and pleasantly; the sacrifice is now called for from the men, the contributions, from the country (speaking and acting through the Government) in promoting public works, and to this end continued exertion, if it be somewhat clamorous in its function of utterance, is demanded of the leaders or representatives of the suffering interests.

Dr. Duncan has just established the fact, that mortality is greater in Liverpool than in any other town in Great Britain. One in 54 dies in the country, one in 37 in London, but one in 28 in Liverpool, while in Manchester it is one in 29. Dr. Duncan has made the reason of this perfectly obvious. The cellars, 7,000 in number, may be regarded as preparatory graves, for in these damp dens of death there reside about 21,000 of the labouring population of the town, of whom there die annually of invited diseases not less than 1,000. Between 500 and 600 of the population die annually of fever, while the number attacked by fever is stated to be 7,000, shewing that, although originating in courts and cellars, its ravages extend to higher places. In the metropolis the mortality to females from consumption is one in 464, but in Liverpool it is one in 298; in Manchester the number is less than it is in Liverpool, while in Birmingham it is only one in 404. Infancy, too, suffers in Liverpool by comparison more than in any other place, for whilst the deaths among infants in Manchester, from convulsions and teething, were in two years 1,765; in Liverpool, in three years, they were 4,081.

## PUBLIC MEASURES CONNECTED WITH THE WELFARE AND INTEREST OF THE BUILDING CLASSES.

THERE are at the present time in progress and under consideration more public measures connected with the building classes than perhaps have been at any one time within our remembrance. We have already passed in review the proposed Metropolitan Building Act and the Metropolitan Survey, and now we propose to bring before our readers an act of a more general nature, that is, one intended to affect, and to operate in, every populous district, namely, A GENERAL CEMETERY BILL, or, as it is entitled, "A Bill for the Improvement of Health in Towns, by removing the interment of the dead from their precincts."

Besides this, there is in progress a bill and a commission sitting for the improvement of towns, a committee for the suppression of smoke nuisances, and a bill on foot for the prevention of fires in the metropolis. These we shall review in their due course; at present we confine our attention to the Cemetery Bill, and we propose to ourselves, as part of the treatment of this question, to dwell upon the general subject of cemeteries, with some illustrations of their character and embellishment, and remarks on the management.

The bill is somewhat too lengthy for our pages at present, nor does the part omitted appear to be of great consequence; we shall therefore present our readers with that which we deem of direct interest to them, and refer the more inquisitive to the printed bill itself.

*A Bill for the Improvement of Health in Towns, by removing the Interment of the Dead from their Precincts.*

[Note.—The words printed in Italics are proposed to be inserted in the Committee.]

Preamble. WHEREAS the practice of Interment under Churches, Chapels and other places of Religious Worship, and within the precincts of large Towns in England, is injurious to Health, and frequently offensive to public decency, and it is expedient that the same should be prevented; may it therefore please your MAJESTY, that it may be Enacted, AND BE IT ENACTED, by the QUEEN'S most Excellent MAJESTY, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, THAT from and after the *Thirty-first day of December One thousand eight hundred and Forty-three*, no burial or interment of any dead body shall take place in England in or under any Church, Chapel or other place of Religious Worship, nor in or under any house or building inhabited by any person whatsoever (except as hereinafter specially provided to the contrary); and the executor or administrator to the estate and effects of every such deceased person, and every person who shall aid or assist in the burial of the same, contrary to this provision, shall forfeit the sum of *Five Pounds*.

2. And be it Enacted, That from and after the *Thirty-first day of December One thousand eight hundred and Forty-four*, no burial or interment of any dead body (except as hereinafter specially provided to the contrary) shall take place in or within the distance of *Two Miles* from the metes and bounds of the Cities of London or Westminster, or the borough of Southwark, or the liberties thereof, or within *One Mile* of any other city, town or borough in England, as such metes and bounds are described or referred to in an Act passed in the fifth and sixth years of the reign of his late Majesty King WILLIAM the Fourth, intituled, "An Act to provide for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations in England and Wales," which shall contain more than *Five Hundred Houses*, the occupiers whereof shall be rated to the relief of the poor to the amount of *Ten Pounds* or upwards; and the executor or administrator to the estate and effects of every such dead body, and every person who shall aid or assist in the burial of the same contrary to this provision, shall forfeit the sum of *Five Pounds*.

3. Provided always, and be it Enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend to restrain the burial of any dead body in any Cemetery authorized to be established by any Act passed specially for that purpose, or in any Churchyard, Cemetery, or Burial-ground specified or referred to in the Schedule (A.) to this Act annexed.

4. Provided also, and be it Enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend to restrain the burial of any dead body in any existing family vault which shall be the property of, or which shall have been dedicated or set apart as the family vault of the family of which such dead body

shall have been a member, nor to restrain for the period of *Twenty years* from the passing of this Act the burial or interment of any dead body in or under the limits of any existing Churchyard, Cemetery or receptacle for the dead mentioned or specified in the Schedule (B.) to this Act annexed.

5. Provided always, and be it Enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend to prevent, with the consent of One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, the interment of the dead body of any eminent public person in any vault or grave under Westminster Abbey or Saint Paul's Cathedral.

6. And be it Enacted, That on and after the *First day of January One thousand Eight hundred and Fifty*, it shall be lawful for the Churchwardens of any parish, township or place, the Burial-ground of which shall not have been used for the interment of any dead body for the space of *Five Years* (except in family vaults), to cause such Burial-ground to be planted with shrubs or trees, as a Vestry of such parish, township or place, shall determine; nevertheless no excavation or disturbance of the soil below the depth of *Two Feet* from the surface of the earth shall take place under any pretence whatever, until *Twenty Years* after the expiration of the last interment of a dead body in the same.

7. And be it Enacted, That the Rector, Vicar or Incumbent, and the Churchwardens of every parish, township or place in every such city, town or borough respectively, together with *Two* of the inhabitants of such parish, township or place, rated to the relief of the poor within the same to the amount of *Thirty Pounds* per annum, to be elected annually by the inhabitants of such parish, township or place in vestry assembled, shall form a Committee for every such parish, township or place; or it shall be lawful for the Rectors, Vicars or Incumbents and Churchwardens of any *Two* or more parishes, townships or places therein, to form such parishes, townships or places into a Union for the purposes of this Act; and in such cases the Rectors, Vicars, or Incumbents and Churchwardens of each parish, township or place so united, together with *Two* of the rated inhabitants of each such parish, township or place, to be elected annually by the respective inhabitants of each such parish, township or place, in vestry assembled, shall form a Committee for such Union; and all the powers hereinafter given to any such Committee may be executed by the majority of the members of the Committee at any meeting.

By Clause 8 Committees may purchase Land for Cemeteries.

Clause 9 empowers Corporations and others to sell Land.

Clauses 10, 11, and 12 relate to the application of monies paid for Compensation in particular cases.

Clause 13 is upon question touching title to Money, Person in possession of Premises deemed entitled.

14. And be it Enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Committee to convert any such land so purchased (unless the same shall form part of some existing Cemetery, which shall render the same unnecessary) into a Cemetery or Burial-ground, and to lay out and plant the same in such manner as they shall think proper, and cause the same to be enclosed with walls or other sufficient fences.

15. And be it Enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Bishop of the Diocese for the time being to consecrate part of every Cemetery formed under the provisions of this Act, and the part so consecrated shall be used only for the burial of the dead according to the rites of the Established Church: Provided always, That the portion of the Cemetery which shall be consecrated shall be the same proportion, as nearly as the same can be conveniently ascertained, as the number of the members of the Established Church residing within the parish, township, place or union of places, in respect of which the Cemetery shall be formed, shall bear to the number of the remaining persons residing within the same.

16. Provided always, and be it Enacted, That it shall not be lawful for the said Bishop to consecrate any land, unless a good title to the same shall be shewn to his satisfaction.

17. And be it Enacted, That in order to prevent any doubt or difficulty hereafter as to boundaries, such distinctive land-mark or separation shall be made between the consecrated and unconsecrated portions of the Cemetery as may be required by the said Bishop; and a plan of the same, with such distinctive mark or separation traced thereon, shall be for ever kept in the vestry of every parish, in respect of which the Cemetery shall be formed.

18. And be it Enacted, That the Committee shall construct, within such part of the Cemetery as shall be consecrated, a Chapel for the reception of the dead immediately previous to interment, and